

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

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Please replace paragraph [21] with the following amended paragraph:

- [21] Figure 2 illustrates a method for use with a visual design surface to convey characteristics of design elements to users. First, in step 202, a design element is represented with a shape on a visual design surface. Figure ~~2~~3 illustrates a visual design surface in which design elements are represented with rectangular shapes 302-308. Shapes 302-308 may represent such things as business processes, flowchart steps, hosting platforms, hardware components or other design elements.